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AUTHOR Morton, Shirley T.
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ABSTRACT

This overview of the history of lifelong learning for African Americans is in a chart format. Lifelong learning events are matched with social and historical events and with black adult educators and black adult education-related institutions. The chart begins with slavery around 1800, a time when slaves were forbidden to learn how to read. It highlights organizations that provided educational opportunities of various kinds during the 1800s and continues through events of the abolition crusade and emancipation proclamation. These post-Civil War lifelong learning events are then charted: industrial training schools; settlement house movement; musical, literacy, and artistic events sponsored by black women's organizations; and farmers conferences. The role of Booker T. Washington is emphasized. Turn-of-the-century highlights include the Atlanta Conferences for the study of the Negro problem; the Negro Liberation Movement from 1901-10; Niagara Movement; and George Washington Carver's Agriculture Movable School. The chart covers these 20th-century events: founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and National Urban League; New Negro Movement; Harlem Renaissance; buying power movement; Congress of Racial Equality; Civil Rights Movement; and creation of the Kvanzaa holiday. A 34-item selected bibliography of adult education for African Americans is appended. (YLB)

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"When learners understand how gender, race, ethnicity, values and culture are given or denied status or power by the dominant culture, then knowledge and schooling are demystified and learners are in charge of their own learning".[1]

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CHARTING THE COURSE OF LIFELONG LEARNING FOR BLACKS

Shirley T. Morton
12277 Granada Way
Woodbridge, VA 22192
(703) 590-2647

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[1] Cunningham, P.C. (1983). "Helping students extract meaning from experience". In R.M. Smith (Ed.) Helping adults learn how to learn. New Directions for Continuing Education #19. (p 68). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

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LIFELONG LEARNING FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS: AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Social and Historical Events	Black Adult Educators and Black Adult Education Related Institutions	Lifelong Learning Events
Slaves forbidden to learn how to read and write 1800 - thru Emancipation		"Hidden passage" - listening to the conversation of whites; "Slave grapevine" - to convey information; learning through experience; self-education. Slaves didactic tales had elements of proper conduct and righteous living, but also strategies for survival. The tales taught the advantages of reticence and caution. For example, tales of Brer Rabbit demonstrated how the characters won psychological and material advantage over stronger adversaries; repudiated "psychologically" hegemony of master class over them. Clandestine schools and secret literacy sessions known as "stealin' the meeting'" were attended by free blacks to help to teach slaves to read and write.
1800s	Prince Hall Freemasonry, fraternal organization	Begun in 1775, the oldest and most prestigious black fraternal order. Taught manners, social graces, intellectual and practical business schools, citizenship training and moral codes.
1800s	The Black Church African Methodist Episcopal (Richard Allen), Baptist,	Churches provided opportunities for self-direction and leadership. Leadership training institutions for the communities, preachers were influential in shaping blacks social and political agendas. Many black seminaries and universities served as training for religious leadership (Virginia Union (Richmond Theological Seminary), Morehouse, and Shaw). Churches also provided religious instruction and literacy training.
1800s - 1850s	American Negro Historical Society	Black literary societies, lyceums, and reading rooms were educational sources for black adults. Included such activities as lectures, published newsletters, education in black heritage, industrial and community development, and education for black social and political advancement.
1827 - 1890	The Black Press	Educational Resource. Printed information on such topics as farming, business practices, meetings of local interest, pressed for egalitarian system and argued resistance to oppression. Positive source of information regarding the black community.
1829	David Walker	"Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World". Walker argued that blacks must obtain the best education possible.
1831 - Nat Turner's Slave Revolt		Resistance to oppression

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Social and Historical Events	Black Adult Educators and Black Adult Education Related Institutions	Lifelong Learning Events
1829-1836	African Education Society, African American Female Intelligence Society of Boston, American Anti-Slavery Society, Philadelphia Library Company of Colored Persons, Temperance Society of People of Color - New Haven, Connecticut State Temperance Society of Colored People	Black self help through temperance, mutual aid programs, literary and cultural self-improvement organizations.
The Abolition Crusade 1840s	Harriet Tubman Frederick Douglass Sojourner Truth Charles Redmond	The abolition and emancipation societies conducted programs of education for freed blacks. Harriet Tubman was a leader of abolitionist movement and an active member of the "The Underground Railroad". Frederick Douglass promoted self-determination and viewed education as means to liberation and freedom. Douglass used his newspapers, The North Star and Douglass' Paper as one method of conveying his message .
National Negro Convention Movement 1830-1853		Conventions served to develop education-for-living programs for blacks. Conventions were held state wide as well as nationwide. National Negro Convention (1835): Created the American Moral Reform Society (1836-1841) whose emphasis was education, temperance, economy and universal liberty. Rochester Convention (1853): Created national council to promote black self help in the areas of publishing, employment, business, and education. Provision for establishing national Negro museum and library. Some other conventions were the Founding Convention of the Afro-American League, the Convention of Colored Americans, National Afro-American Council, and the National Conference of Colored Men (1879).
1853	First black YMCA YWCA (1893)	Initially was a social and religious gathering, but later conducted adult education programs such as Negro heritage clubs, and arts and crafts classes. YWCA sponsored exhibits on black womanhood, black religious tradition, and black artistic achievements.
Dred Scott Case 1857		Ruled that slaves were not citizens and had no legal rights.
1858	African Civilization Society	Theme of racial self-help to educate members of its own race.
1860		5% of black population was literate.

Social and Historical Events	Black Adult Educators and Black Adult Education Related Institutions	Lifelong Learning Events
Civil War 1861-1865 1863 - Emancipation Proclamation 1865 - 13th Amendment- prohibits slavery		Union Army brigade and regimental commanders instituted programs of instruction for black soldiers and civilians. They were taught by officers, civilian volunteers, and Northern teachers paid by soldiers.
Post Civil War Emancipation 1865 - 1866		Education undertaken by Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau): tended to promote strict morality, refinement, responsibility, religion; New England Freedman's Society: domestic duties. Numerous missionary societies from the North also participated in education of blacks, though primary emphasis was on religious and moral training. Often used "readers" that portrayed blacks in subservient, stereotypical roles.
Black Codes 1865		The Black Codes prohibited assembly of blacks - a strong anti-Negro sentiment which hampered educational efforts. The Black Codes ensured white control over blacks.
Reconstruction/Post Reconstruction 1867 - 1890		
1868 (14th Amendment) 1870 (15th Amendment)		Extended citizenship and civil rights to blacks.
1869	Colored National Labor Convention	Supported education liberty, labor.
Industrial School Movement 1870s thru 1880's	Booker T. Washington Frederick Douglass	Industrial training schools proliferated as the education of choice for black adults. Growth largely due to support of northern philanthropists. The Hampton/Tuskeegee were the predominant models of industrial education. These schools also served as teacher training schools. While Booker T. Washington generated the most support and funding for the industrial schools, Frederick Douglass espoused the same sentiments at the Rochester Convention in 1853.
1880's	Colored Farmers Alliance	Theme of self help and racial uplift. National organization with educational, social, and educational programs.
Settlement House Movement 1880s thru 1900s		While most settlement houses, primarily under white leadership, emphasized Americanization for the foreign born and education for democratic leadership, some did offer adult education programs for southern blacks to help them adjust to life in urban areas and others sponsored cultural activities such as concerts.

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Era of Jim Crow 1890 - 1915		
1890		Afro-American League in Chicago founded by T. Thomas Fortune, disseminated African American political ideas.
1892	Women's Era Club (Boston), Colored Women's League (Washington, DC) & Women's Loyal Union (Brooklyn).	Sponsored musical events, literary events, and artistic exhibitions; organized clinics and demonstrations for mothers; and raised funds for scholarships.
1890s	Farmers Conferences Booker T. Washington	Sponsored by Tuskeegee. Taught better methods of crop production, animal husbandry, chicken raising, and marketing procedures; methods and means of securing homes, debt management; the importance of paying taxes, cultivating habits of thrift and honesty. Women were provided instruction in homemaking, child rearing, and personal grooming.
1895	Booker T. Washington	Booker T. Washington made his Atlanta Compromise speech. Ida Wells Barnett published her pamphlet against lynching - The Red Record.
1896	National Association of Colored Womens Club (Mary Church Terrell, founding member)	National Association of Colored Women's Clubs founded - advocate of self-improvement and racial uplift. Black women's clubs proliferated from 1890 to 1895 and emphasized raising the cultural, intellectual, and educational status of black women. Self help was the guiding philosophy. Provided leadership training for women. Night schools were established and women volunteers taught such topics as literature and language, and Terrell taught a class in parliamentary procedure.
1896	Tuskeegee's Rural Social Settlement House Program	Provide education for children during the day and adults at night. The program was located on a 2000 acre plantation of 75 sharecropper families.
Plessy v. Ferguson 1896		Enforced separate but equal accommodations.
1896 - 1907	Atlanta Conferences	A series of annual conferences conducted for the study of the Negro problem. The following topics were addressed at these conferences: ""Mortality among Negroes in Cities"; Social and Physical Conditions of Negroes in Cities"; "American Negroes for their own Social Betterment"; "The Negro in Business"; "The College-Bred Negro"; "The Negro Common School"; "The Negro Artisan"; "The Negro Church"; "Notes on Negro Crime, Particularly in Georgia"; "A Bibliography of the Negro American"; "Health and Physique of the Negro American" and "Economic Cooperation among Negro Americans".
Negro Liberation Movement 1901-1910		

Social and Historical Events	Black Adult Educators and Black Adult Education Related Institutions	Lifelong Learning Events
1900	James Weldon Johnson	Wrote "Lift Every Voice" which became African Americans national anthem and instilled race pride.
1901	Monroe Trotter	Boston Guardian - organized militancy of press to protest Washington's conciliatory attitude.
1903	W. E. DuBois	Souls of Black Folk by W.E. DuBois was published. Served to "bury Uncle Tom" and build race pride. Outspoken against Booker T. Washington's program of accommodation, espoused "talented tenth" philosophy. DuBois viewed education as a lifelong process and a part of the process was the liberation of his people.
1905	Niagara Movement	A national program, represented by African American intellectuals, some of whom were militant, directed against all barriers to first class citizenship of Negroes and organized opposition to Booker T. Washington and his philosophy. The Niagara Movement also served as an organized means of protest against racial injustices, political suppression, and unequal educational opportunities.
1905	Philadelphia Association for Protection of Colored Women	Formed to help educated black southern women on employment opportunities and to protect them from immoral influences of the city.
1906 - 1923	Booker T. Washington Movable School George Washington Carver (Agriculture Movable School)	A wagon loaded with farm implements and supplies where educators visited communities to demonstrate improved methods of farming and eventually included a nurse and home economist. Carver's Movable School taught women how to pickle, how to prepare foods, and how to use the potato to make starch. He taught men how to cure and keep meat, how to rotate crops, and how to manage an efficient farm. Carver's team also distributed pamphlets such as "How to Grow Peanuts and 105 Ways to Prepare them for Human Consumption".
1909	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) (Some founders: W.E. DuBois, James Weldon Johnson	Fought against lynchings, mob violence and for justice in the court. Used litigation, legislation, and education. Adult education activities included leadership training conferences, regional programs on such topics as cooperation with labor organizations, employment programs, civil service, social, and labor legislation. Emphasized importance of collective action, and results through legislation. Also educated the majority group on the problems of African Americans.
1909		Nannie H. Burroughs established the National Training School for Women and Girls in Washington, DC (later changed to National Trades and Professional School for Women). Provided vocational training in housekeeping, interior decorating, domestic arts and science to women and girls.

Social and Historical Events	Black Adult Educators and Black Adult Education Related Institutions	Lifelong Learning Events
1911	National Urban League	Enlightened program of adult education that stressed the interracial character of education. During the Great Migration, National Urban League saw education as two-fold: educating blacks on how to adjust to city life, and educated management and white workers on accepting blacks as workers. The Industrial Relations Laboratory studies performance in blacks in plants, but more importantly served to help disseminate positive information regarding blacks competence in the workforce and to help break down stereotypes of inferiority. Distributed pamphlets such as "Reap a Million" to inform blacks of importance of good attendance on the job, "Employment Problems of the Negro", and "Racial Problems in Housing". Held conferences and distributed information on such topics as job attitudes and membership in labor unions. Acquainted blacks and whites with techniques to improve community relations and lessen tensions between the two races.
1913	Negro Organization Society of Virginia Farmers Improvement Society of Texas	Negro Organization Society of VA: A federation of various religious, educational, and secular organizations devoted to social betterment. Their theme was "Better Schools, Better Health, Better Homes, Better Farms".
Great Migration 1914-1918 World War I		1914 - Smith Lever Act - cooperative extension service.
1914	Marcus Garvey Universal Negro Improvement Association, Booker T. Washington Institute	Organized the UNIA to establish a strong Negro nation in Africa. "Back to Africa" was UNIA's theme, but racial pride was a central cornerstone of the program. "Up you mighty race, you can accomplish what you will.
1915	Carter G. Woodson Association for the Study of Negro Life and History	"Father of African American history"; wrote The Miseducation of the Negro
1917		Smith Hughes Act -- vocational education
New Negro Movement 1918 - 1925		Quest for self-respect. Build race pride, bury Uncle Tom.
Harlem Renaissance 1920s thru 1940s	Langston Hughes, Zora Neal Hurston, James Weldon Johnson, Arna Bontemps, and others	Intellectual and creative energies dominated the scene. A time of rising assertiveness and optimism of black leaders.

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1925	Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters A. Phillip Randolph	Randolph created the March on Washington organization to demand jobs in war industries and equality in armed forces. As a result of his organized efforts, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 which banned discrimination in war industries and apprenticeship programs. "True liberation can be acquired and maintained only when the Negro people possess power; and power is the product and flower of organization - organization of the masses."
1926	Carter G. Woodson	Organized first Black History Week.
Great Depression 1930s New Deal 1933-1938		
Buying Power Movement 1930s		Picketing, boycotting by blacks to force white employers to hire black workers. "Don't buy where you can't work" campaign.
1933		Civilian Conservation Corps provide limited training and access to education to blacks, but 87% of all blacks enrolled in the CCC education program. They were primarily trained as janitors, waiters, or chauffeurs, and a few as gardeners, farmers, or cooks. Other educational programs included those of the FERA (Federal Emergency Relief Administration), and WPA (Work Projects Administration).
1936		Adult Education Among Negroes (Ira Reid) was the first edition of the Bronze Booklets published by the Associates in Negro Folk Education. These booklets or reading courses contained study outlines, reading lists, and suggestions for further study. Other booklets, published between 1936 and 1941 included: The New Negro and his Music & Negro Art: Past & Present (Alain Locke); A World View of Race (Ralph Bunche; The Negro and Economic Reconstruction (T. Arnold Hill); The New Negro in American Fiction & Negro Poetry and Drama (Sterling Brown; The Negro in the Caribbeans (Eric Williams)
1936	Thomas M. Campbell	Director of Booker T. Washington's movable schools. First black farm demonstration agent.
1937	Mary McLeod Bethune	In her role as Director of Office of Minority Group Affairs in the National Youth Administration, helped to channel funds to training programs for blacks and increased funding for higher education.
1938	Annual Conference on Adult Education and the Negro	The first annual conference conducted under the auspices of the American Association for Adult Education, the extension department of Hampton Institute, and Associates in Negro Folk Education.
World War II 1939-45		

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1940s		U.S. Army's Special Training Units for illiterates provided instruction in reading, language, arithmetic, and military subjects; Armed Forces Institute provided extension courses in such subjects as social work, mathematics, science, and business, to prepare soldiers for civilian life; and regular training programs in such areas as welding, painting, drafting, etc.
1940s		Adult education for blacks was conducted, to a small degree, through the public schools, mainly through evening classes. Primary subject areas were: vocational agriculture, trade and industries, and home economics. In most states, adult education was primarily identified with literacy, naturalization instruction, and opportunity schools. A unique program was started in South Carolina, through the County Council for Community Development, where a "Negro Adult College" was established in a black community. The course content centered around practical problems growing out of the experiences of the adults attending the classes. Baltimore public schools adult classes included courses in parent education.
1940s	The Negro Press	Many new black magazines emerged such as the Negro Digest (1942) and Ebony. (1945). In 1943 there were 143 active black newspapers, many of whose editors viewed the newspaper's role as one of adult education. Some areas of adult education included instilling racial pride, educating for effective citizenship, principles of political action, and the evaluation of racial leadership.
1942	Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)	Trained groups in techniques of non-violence, sponsored freedom rides, conducted local voter registration drives. Community action projects included such activities as remedial education, education for young men, health education, and home management skills.
1942		Vocational Training for War Production Workers - federal training program to teach skills in aircraft, shipbuilding, welding, electricity, and radio communications.
1944		G.I. Bill encouraged back-to-school movement of returning veterans.
1945		Alain L. Locke, elected first African American president of the Adult Education Association of America (1945-1946). Locke argued against the continued segregation of adult education programs. "Education of the mind, heart, and hand, education for social adjustment and practical living, such as the adult education movement envisages." Locke believed that the educational task for the semi-literate working class is one of inspiration, beyond the mere literacy level, enlarging horizons and broadening human values must dominate any adult education movement. He believed pride and self respect are the best contributors that education can make as they are precursors to any economic and political efforts.

Social and Historical Events	Black Adult Educators and Black Adult Education Related Institutions	Lifelong Learning Events
1946	Ambrose Caliver	Appointed director for Project for Literacy Education. Caliver was instrumental in improving literacy education for African American adults. Served as president of the Adult Education Association in 1961.
Civil Rights Movement 1950s - 60s		
1953		Highlander Folk School an educational center for civil rights movement, developing leadership. Workshop at Highlander Folk School on school desegregation to educate and prepare community leaders to implement the decision
Brown vs Board of Education (separate but equal) 1954		
1955	Rosa Parks	Refused to move on the bus. (inspirational leader) - sparked the civil rights movement.
1950s	Septima Clark, Rosa Parks, Esau Jenkins	Septima Clark was Director of Education for Highlander Folk School; involved with Citizenship School Program, Sea Islands, SC. Esau Jenkins responsible for adult school on wheels for adult literacy - where he taught blacks to memorize sections of Constitution, but they still couldn't read or write. Resulted in greater efforts to also get blacks to read and write.
Black Power Movement 1960s	Malcolm X Stokeley Carmichael	Philosophies of self help, strong cultural values, pride in cultural heritage, and unity.
1960	Student Non Violent Coordination Committee (SNCC) Marion Barry (1st chairman); Stokely Carmichael (national chairperson) H. Rap Brown, Julian Bond	Inner leadership from those who attended the first sit-in college workshop sponsored by Highlander Folk School. Consciousness raising through: student sit-ins, mass demonstrations, mass jailings, and voter registration drives. H. Rap Brown argued that when blacks don't control their education , it can be used as a weapon against them.
1961 - 1965	Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Martin Luther King, Andrew Young	Conducted teacher training workshops and enrolled over 50,000 voters. Andrew Young developed the Citizenship School Program for SCLC.
1961	Ambrose Caliver	Elected president of the Adult Education Association. Mentor in the field of adult education.

Social and Historical Events	Black Adult Educators and Black Adult Education Related Institutions	Lifelong Learning Events
1963	Martin Luther King, Jr.	"I Have a Dream" speech. The high point of national consciousness about racial inequality. March on Washington.
1964, 1968 Civil Rights Act Voting Rights Act (1965)		Prohibited discrimination in public accommodations, schools, employment, and voting for reasons of color, race, religious or national origin.
1964	Malcolm X Organization of Afro-American Unity	"Education is an important element in the struggle for human rights. It is the means to help our children and people rediscover their identity and thereby increase self-respect. Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today". (Malcolm X). Malcolm X was primarily self educated; he said he received his high school diploma from the ghetto of Roxbury, MA; his college degree from the streets of Harlem, and his master's degree in prison. The Fruit of Islam sponsored lectures and discussions for men about learning how to be men, their reponsibilties as husband and father, current events, and business principles.
1966	Maulana Karenga US	Created the Kwanzaa holiday (begins on December 26 and lasts 7 days). Celebration of joy, but also of educational value as each one of the principles is discussed during the seven days: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Organized US for the purpose of liberating the minds of African Americans. He believed psychological freedom was necessary before political and economic liberation could be achieved.
1966		Queens College of New York started an innovative adult education program for blacks, Operation ACESEEK, which was operated outside of SEEK's rules and without City of New York College's knowledge. Used nontraditional recruitment methods, such as flyers in housing projects, a remedial program emphasized social science and English to teach analytical and writing skills, provided life experience credits.
1970s	Malcolm X College	Purpose to "empower and educate people" .
1972	Maxine Mimms	Began offering classes in her home because the community college's system wasn't reaching black residents. Classes later held at community-service agencies until 1982 when program was accorded the status of a branch of the community college.
1984		Only 8% of black and Hispanic population participated in adult education programs.
1990s	First World	Community-based agency whose slogan is "Free Your African Mind". Sponsors seminars, forums, language instruction and excursions to Africa.

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